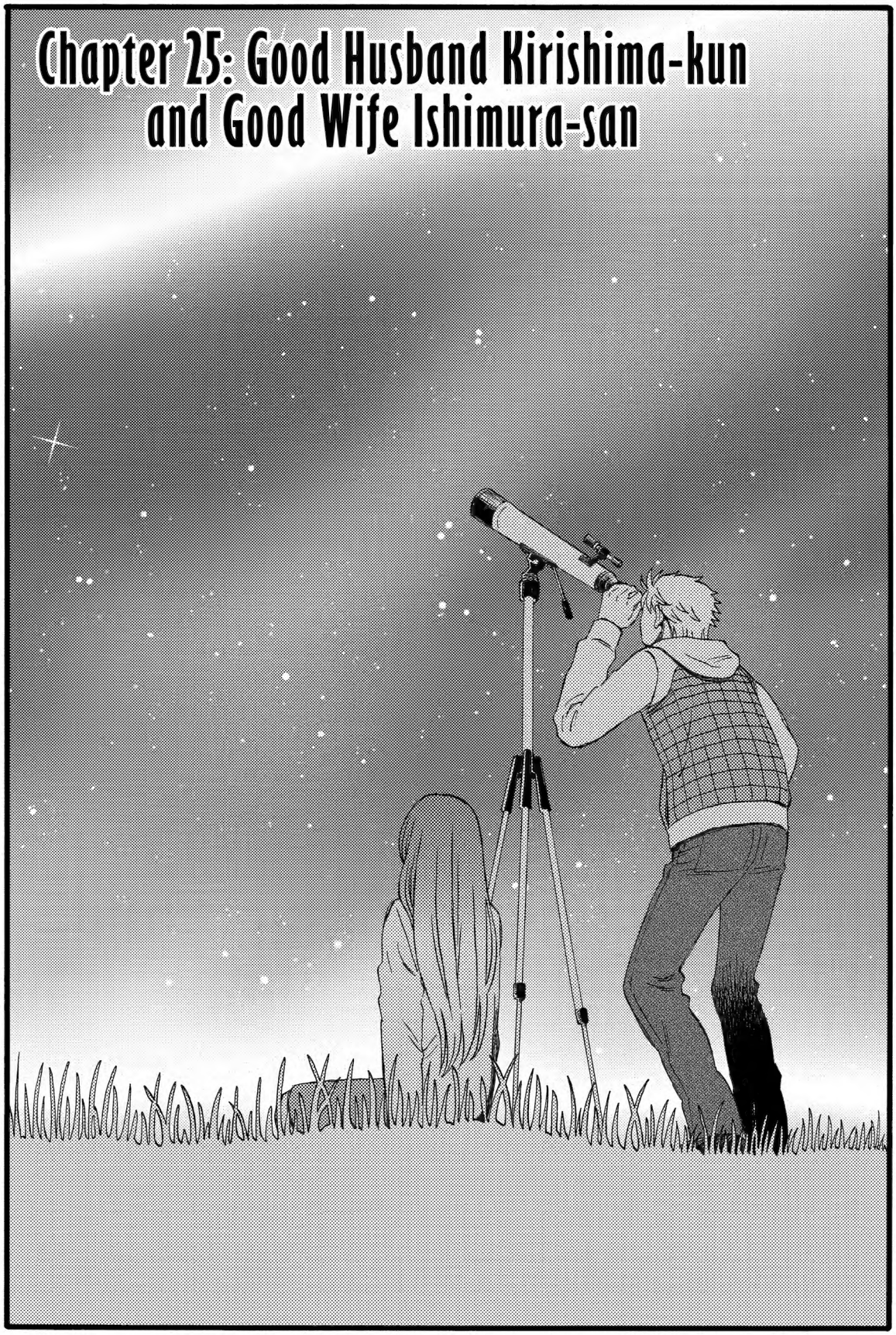
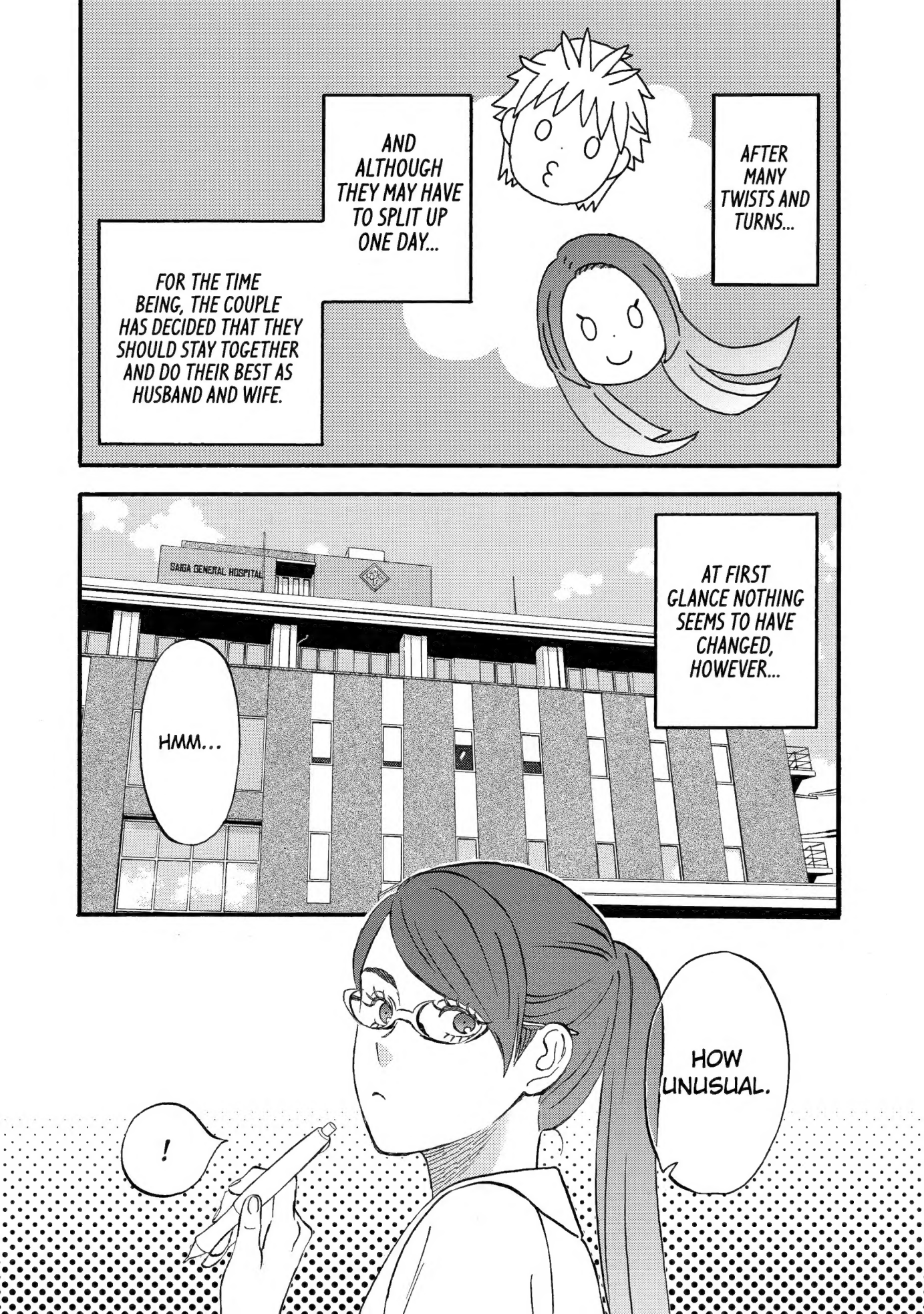
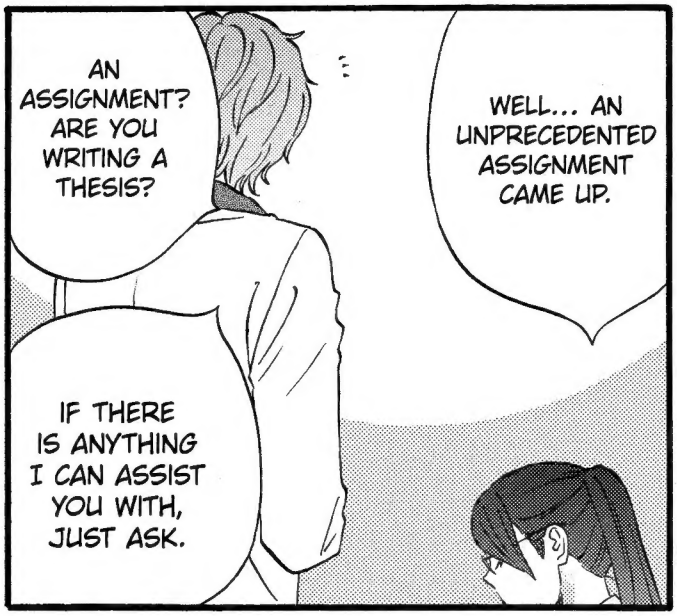
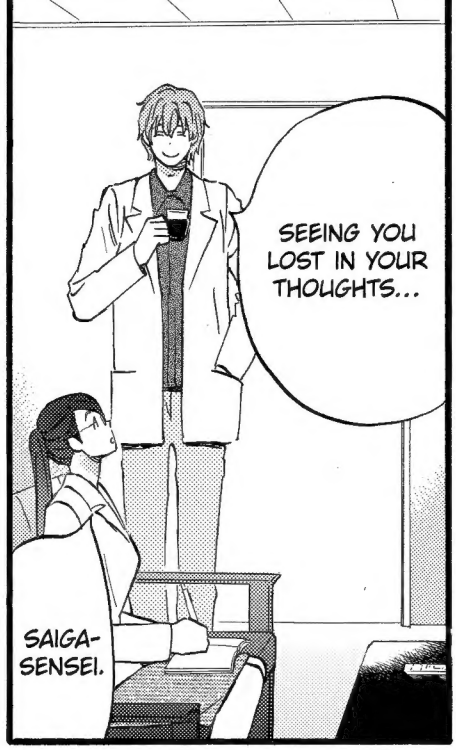
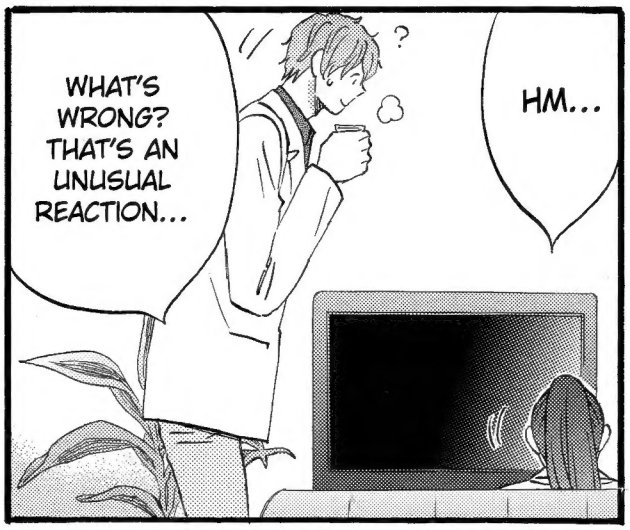
Chapter 25: Good Husband Kirishima-kun and Good Wife Ishimura-san

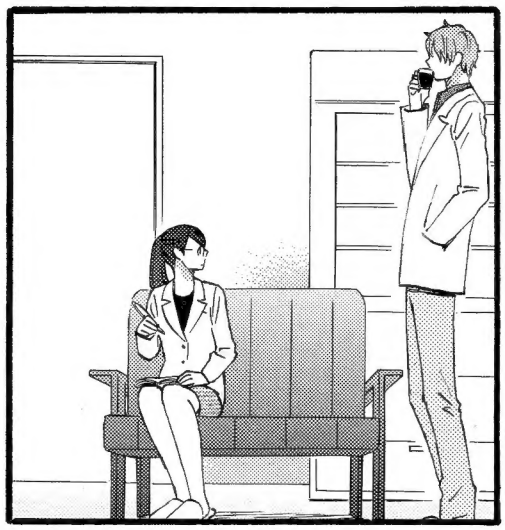



AFTER MANY TWISTS AND TURNS...
AND ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE TO SPLIT UP ONE DAY...
FOR THE TIME BEING, THE COUPLE HAS DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD STAY TOGETHER AND DO THEIR BEST AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.
SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL
AT FIRST GLANCE NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED, HOWEVER...
HMM...
HOW UNUSUAL.
!


AN ASSIGNMENT? ARE YOU WRITING A THESIS?
WELL... AN UNPRECEDENTED ASSIGNMENT CAME UP.
IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN ASSIST YOU WITH, JUST ASK.

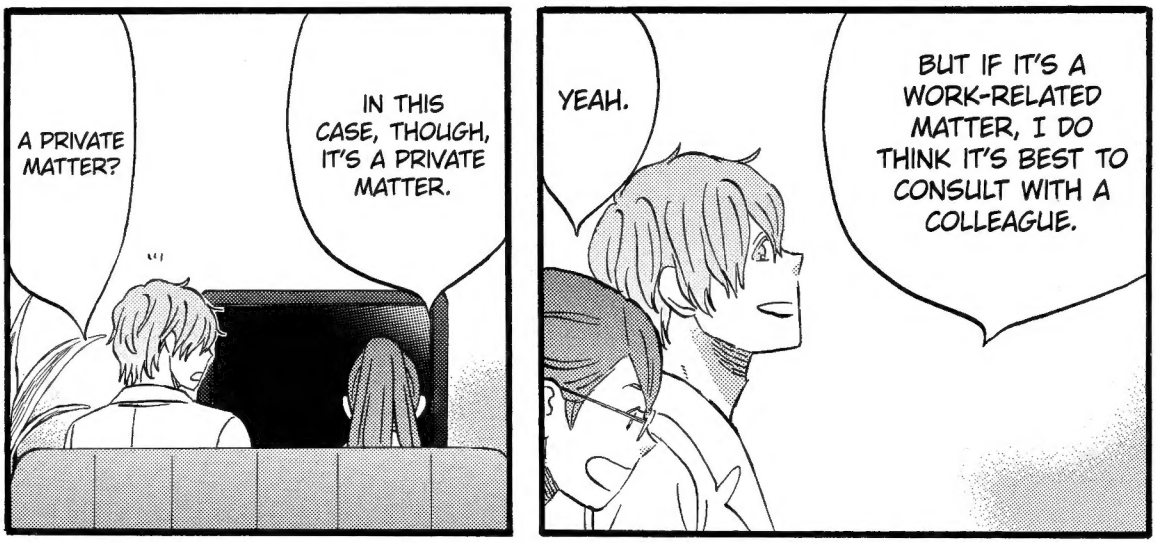

SEEING YOU LOST IN YOUR THOUGHTS...
SAIGA-SENSEI.


WHAT'S WRONG? THAT'S AN UNUSUAL REACTION...
HM...

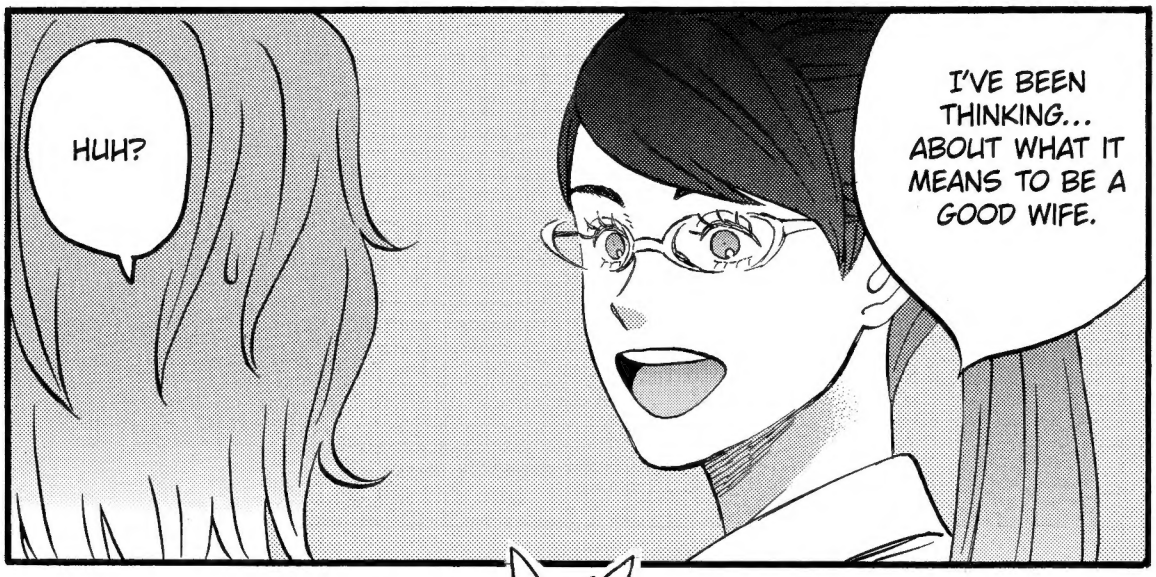


"IT WILL ONLY INVITE TROUBLE, SO PLEASE DON'T DO IT," HE SAID...
HA HA HA! IN THAT CASE, I CERTAINLY WOULD HATE TO GO AGAINST HIS WISHES!
Thud ドォォ

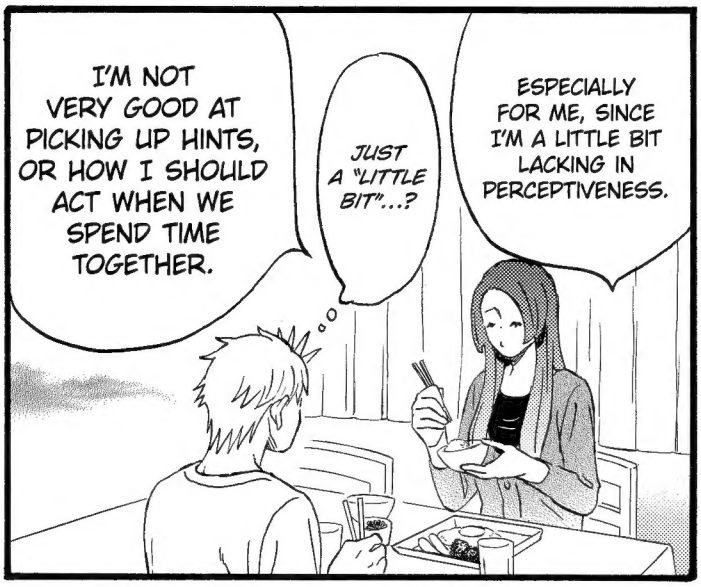
KIRISHIMA-KUN TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD AVOID CONSULTING WITH YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...

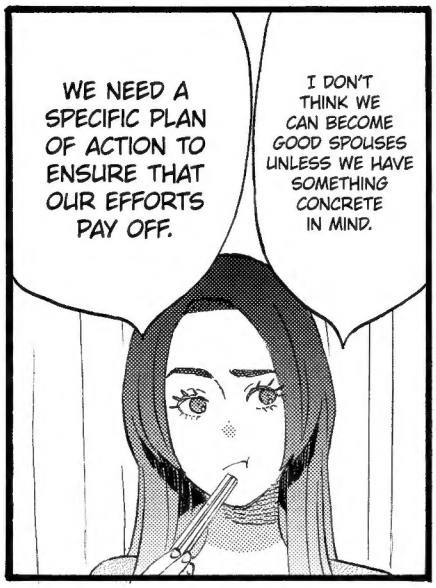

A PRIVATE MATTER?
IN THIS CASE, THOUGH, IT'S A PRIVATE MATTER.

YEAH.
BUT IF IT'S A WORK-RELATED MATTER, I DO THINK IT'S BEST TO CONSULT WITH A COLLEAGUE.

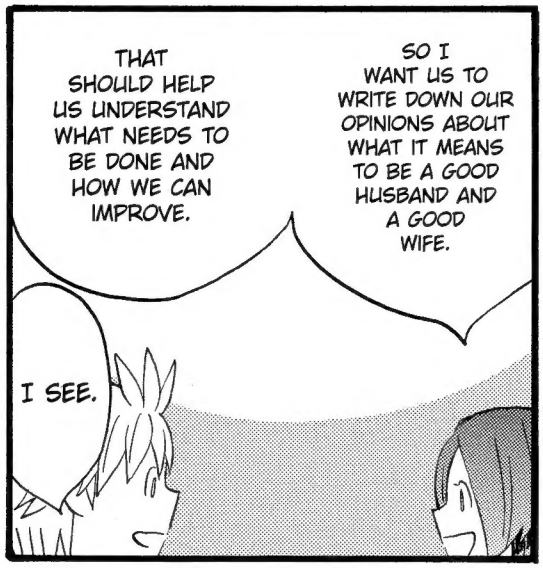

HUH?
I'VE BEEN THINKING... ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD WIFE.

WHAAAT? YOU WANT TO WRITE A PLAN?


I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT PICKING UP HINTS, OR HOW I SHOULD ACT WHEN WE SPEND TIME TOGETHER.
JUST A "LITTLE BIT"...?
ESPECIALLY FOR ME, SINCE I'M A LITTLE BIT LACKING IN PERCEPTIVENESS.


WE NEED A SPECIFIC PLAN OF ACTION TO ENSURE THAT OUR EFFORTS PAY OFF.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN BECOME GOOD SPOUSES UNLESS WE HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE IN MIND.

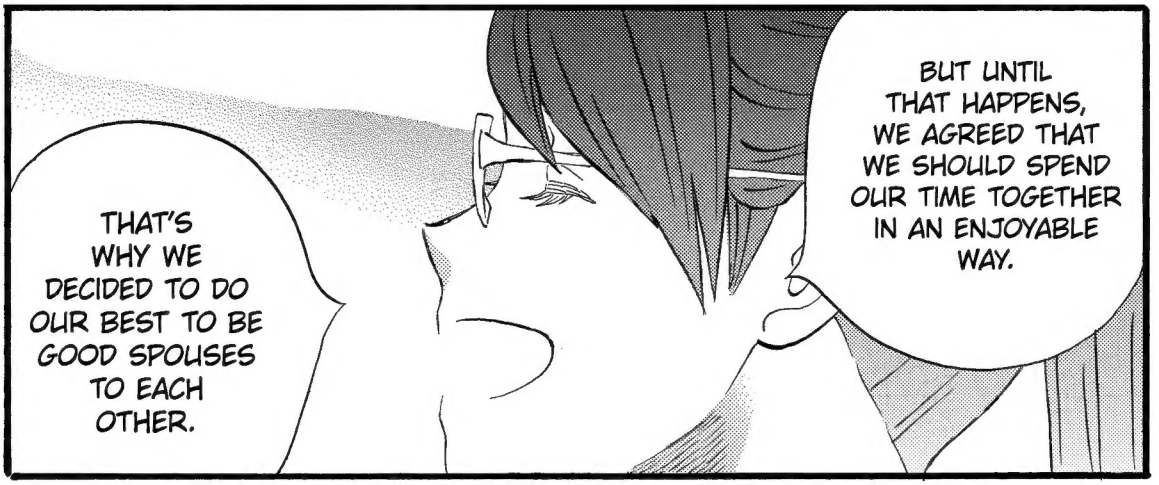
BASICALLY, YOU WANT ME TO THINK ABOUT IT DURING THE DAY...
SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A "COUPLE MEETING" TONIGHT TO DISCUSS IT, RIGHT?


THAT SHOULD HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND HOW WE CAN IMPROVE.
SO I WANT US TO WRITE DOWN OUR OPINIONS ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND AND A GOOD WIFE.
I SEE.

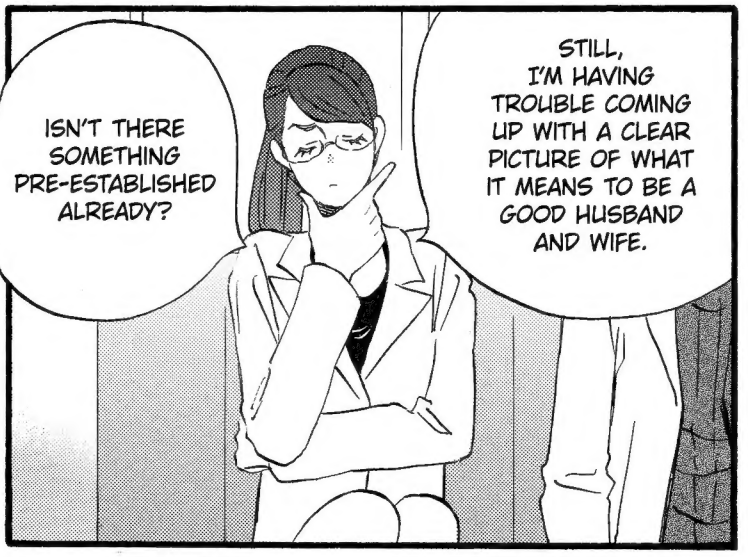
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT EXACTLY I SHOULD DO.
AND SO... I WANT TO BE A GOOD WIFE, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT ENTAILS.

DIDN'T YOU MARRY WITH THE EXPECTATION OF GETTING DIVORCED ONE DAY?!
YOU ARE A FAKE COUPLE, AREN'T YOU?!
WELL, YEAH. THAT DIDN'T CHANGE.
Whaaat?!

YOU...
"YOU?"

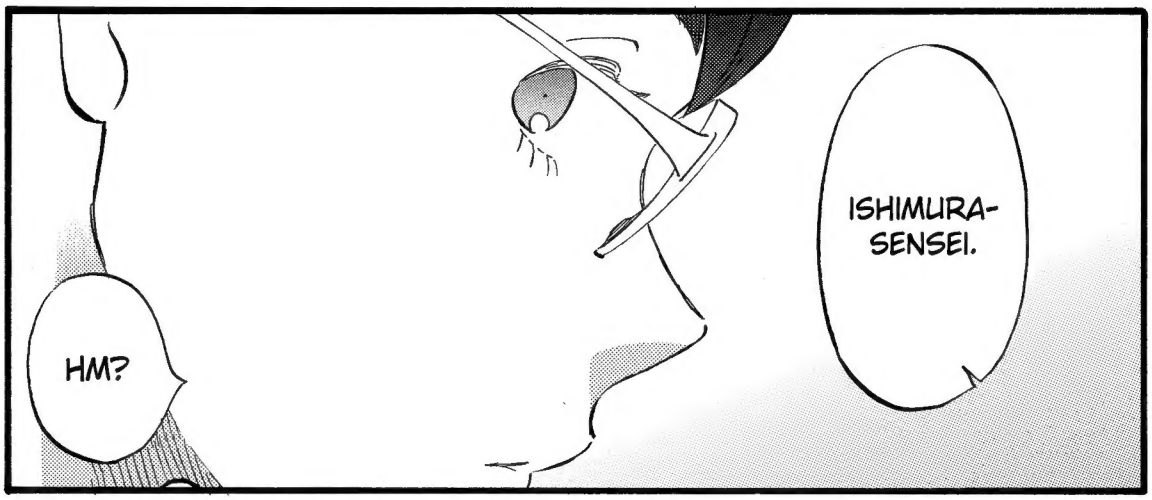

THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO DO OUR BEST TO BE GOOD SPOUSES TO EACH OTHER.
BUT UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, WE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SPEND OUR TIME TOGETHER IN AN ENJOYABLE WAY.

LIKE A DEFAULT IMAGE OF THE IDEAL COUPLE...


ISN'T THERE SOMETHING PRE-ESTABLISHED ALREADY?
STILL, I'M HAVING TROUBLE COMING UP WITH A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND AND WIFE.

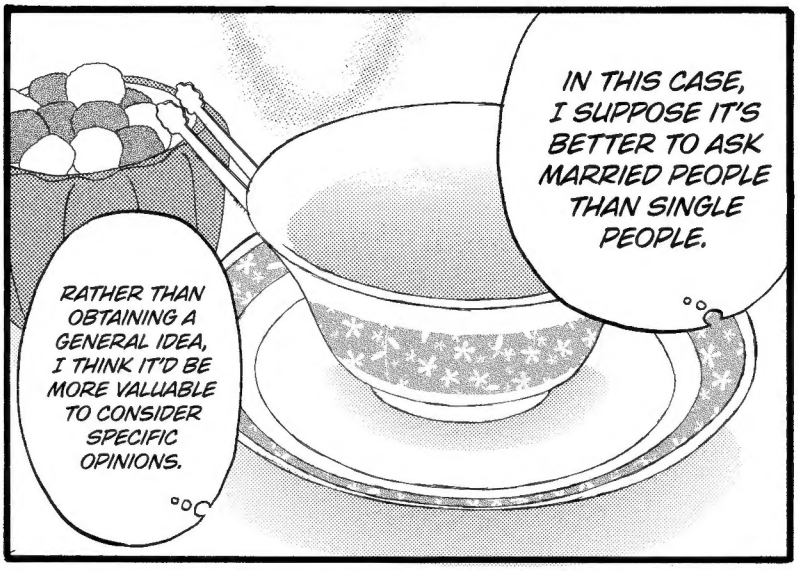
...
I'LL TRY ASKING THE OTHER DOCTORS AND NURSES ABOUT IT.

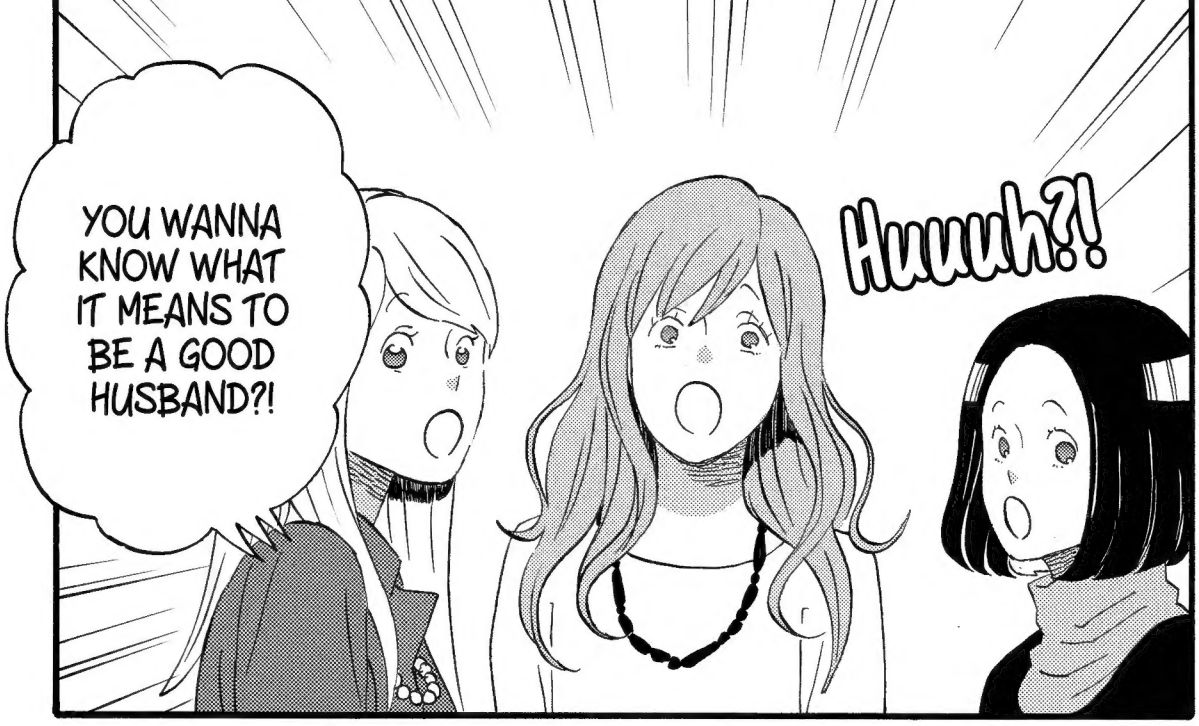
I'M SORRY. I GUESS THIS IS A DIFFICULT QUESTION, EVEN FOR YOU.
...
Ha ha ha!

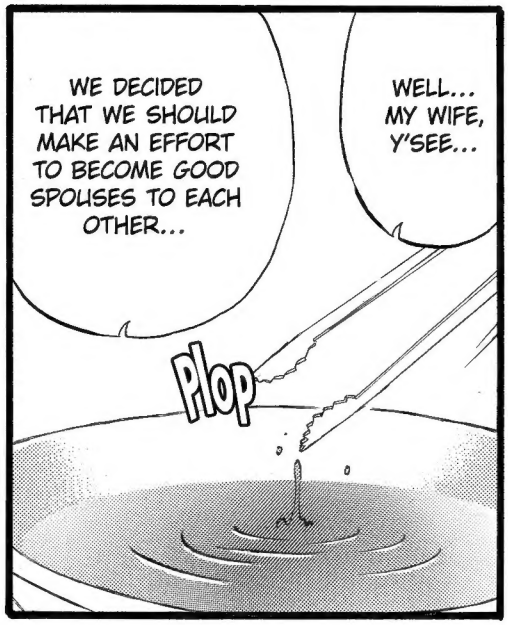

ISHIMURA-SENSEI.
HM?

THE IMAGE OF AN IDEAL COUPLE DOES EXIST.

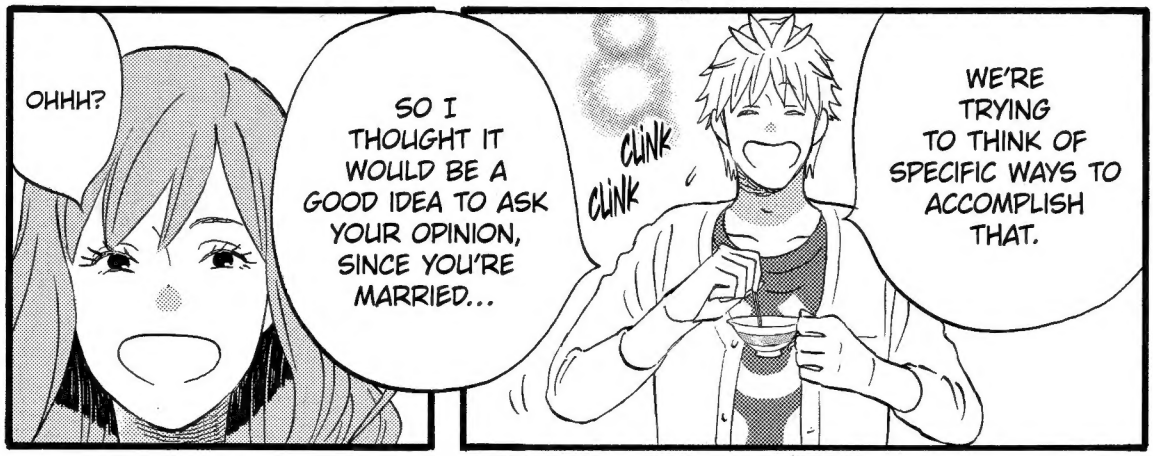
I'LL GIVE YOU MY OPINION AS REFERENCE, SO PLEASE LISTEN.




YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND?!
Huuuh?!

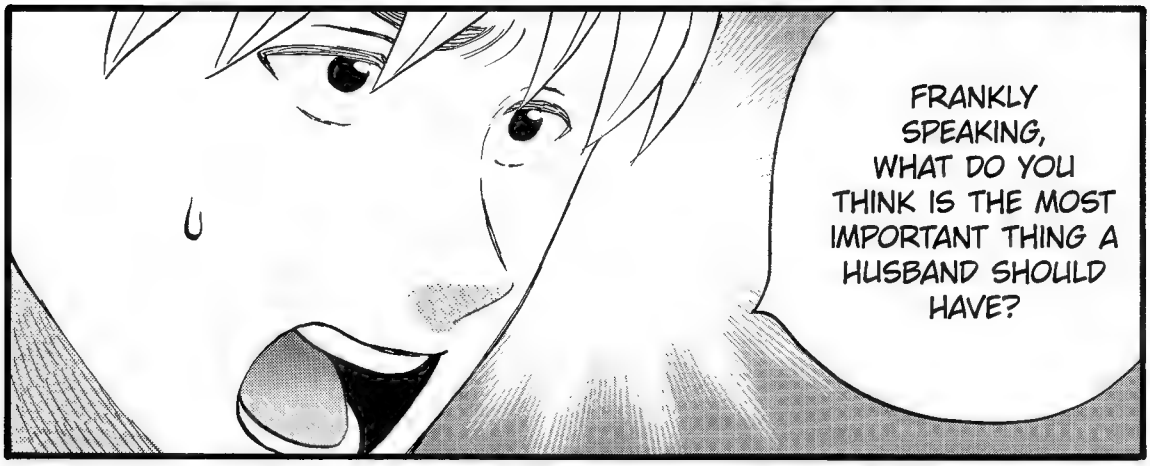

WELL... MY WIFE, Y'SEE...
WE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO BECOME GOOD SPOUSES TO EACH OTHER...
Plop

WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF A SUDDEN, KIRISHIMA-SAAAN?
Ha ha ha ha!
...BUT I'LL BE HONEST. I FEEL LIKE ALL THE MARRIED PEOPLE I KNOW ARE RATHER BIASED...
Heh heh heh...


WE'RE TRYING TO THINK OF SPECIFIC WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.
CLINK CLINK
SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO ASK YOUR OPINION, SINCE YOU'RE MARRIED...
OHHH?

I'D LIKE TO USE YOUR OPINIONS AS REFERENCE.
I DON'T MIND. PLEASE TELL ME YOUR HONEST THOUGHTS ABOUT IT.

AN "IDEAL HUSBAND" DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS VERY REALISTIC...
I WONDER. WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD HUSBAND?
HMM...

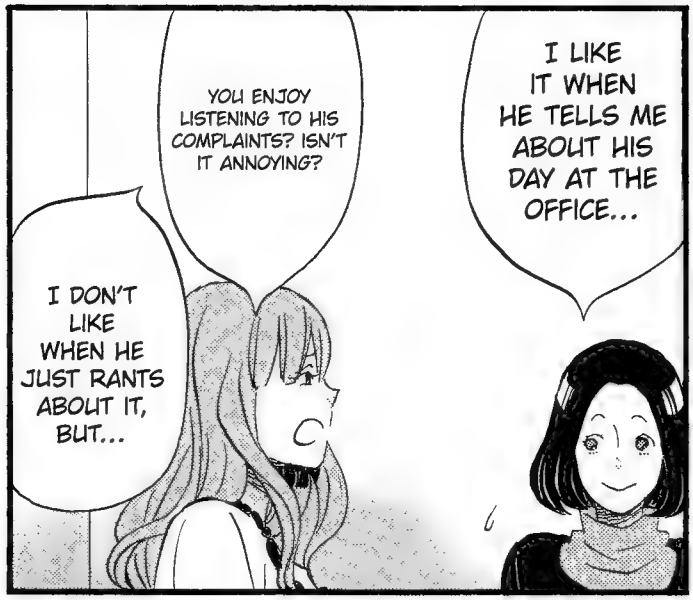

FRANKLY SPEAKING, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING A HUSBAND SHOULD HAVE?

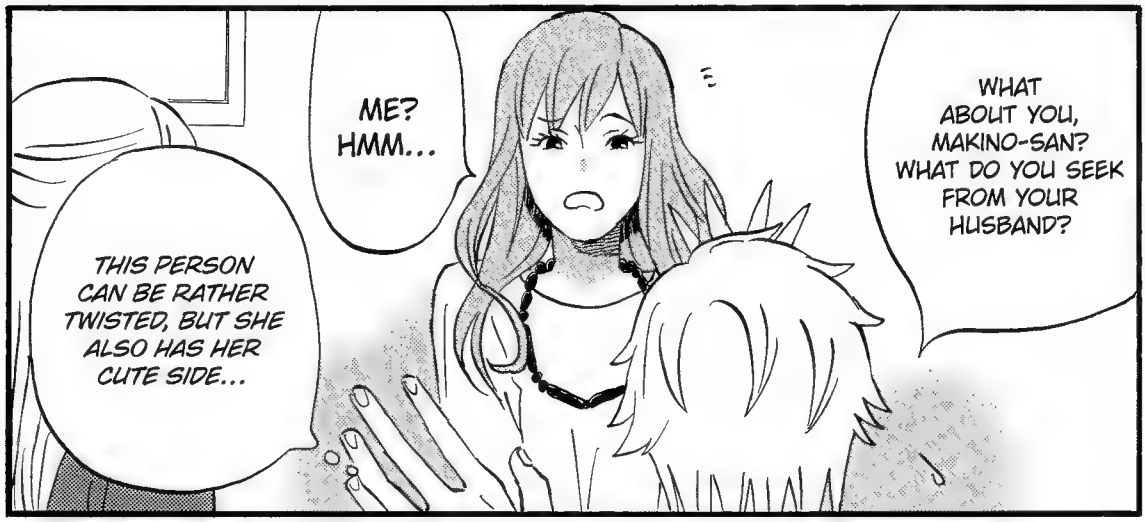
...WHY, OF COURSE. I KNEW YOU'D ANSWER WITH THAT.
A HIGH SALARY.
DEFINITELY MONEY.
MONEY.
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES MONEY...?

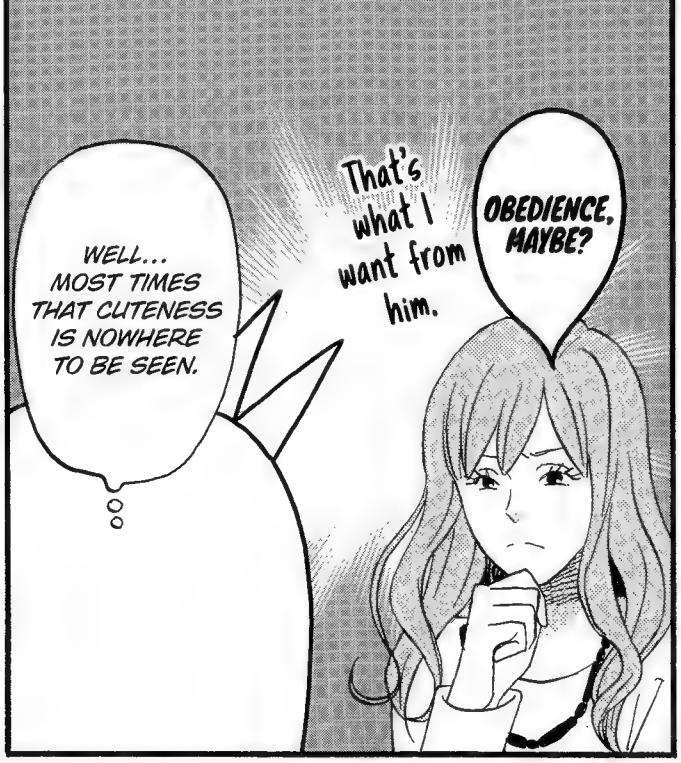
HE DOES, THOUGH IT'S OVER THE PHONE!
Heh hehh...
YOUR HUSBAND WORKS AWAY FROM HOME, THOUGH. DOES HE REALLY TELL YOU THAT EVERY DAY?

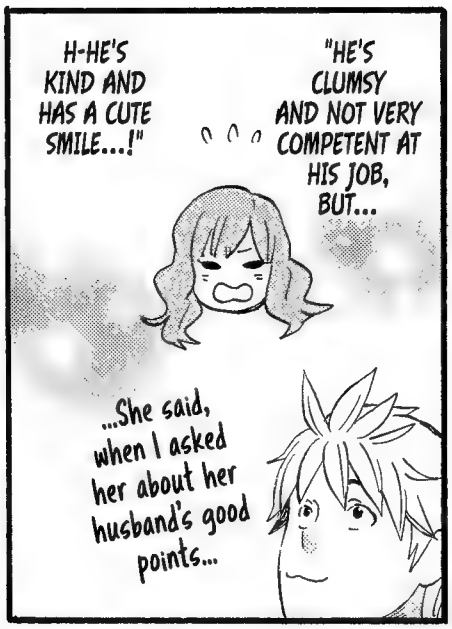
GEEZ, THAT'S ADORABLE.
HUUH? REALLY ...?
HMM... I LIKE THAT HE TELLS ME, "I LOVE YOU" EVERY DAY...
Ha ha ha!

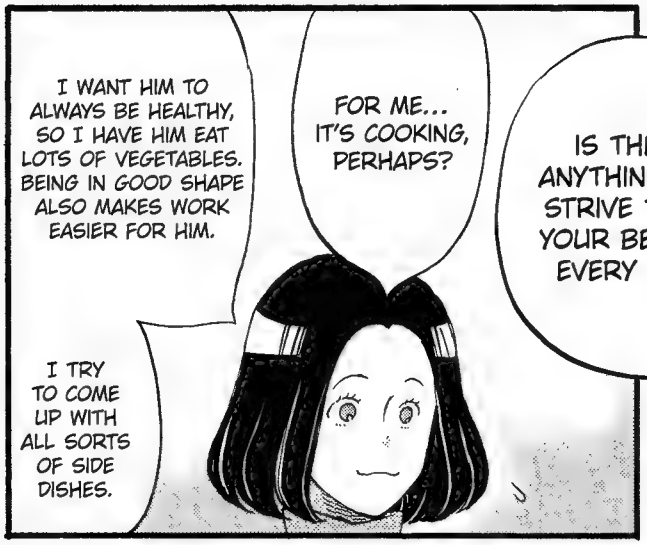
MY HUSBAND ISN'T VERY TALKATIVE, SO HE THANKFULLY KEEPS ONLY THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION IN.
Hm, I see...


YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO HIS COMPLAINTS? ISN'T IT ANNOYING?
I LIKE IT WHEN HE TELLS ME ABOUT HIS DAY AT THE OFFICE...
I DON'T LIKE WHEN HE JUST RANTS ABOUT IT, BUT...


ME? HMM...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAKINO-SAN? WHAT DO YOU SEEK FROM YOUR HUSBAND?
THIS PERSON CAN BE RATHER TWISTED, BUT SHE ALSO HAS HER CUTE SIDE...

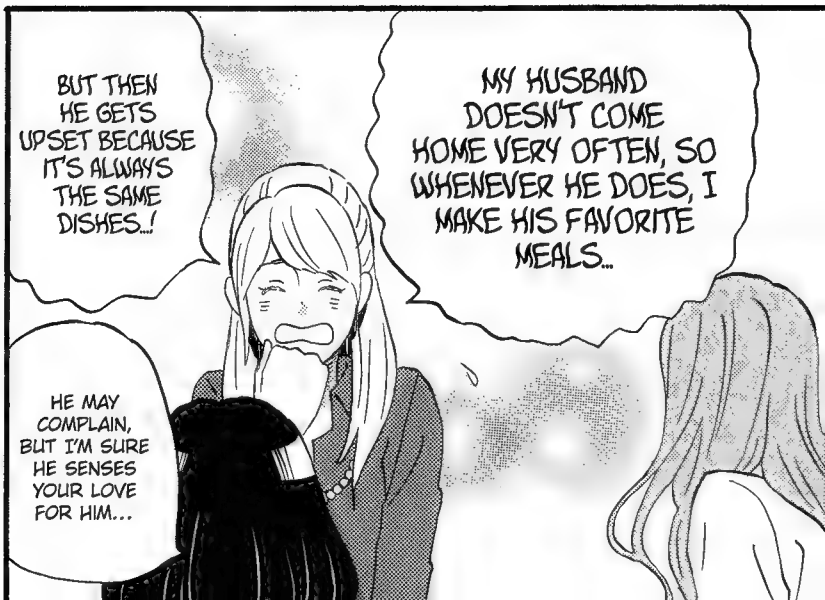

WELL... MOST TIMES THAT CUTENESS IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
That's what I want from him.
OBEDIENCE, MAYBE?

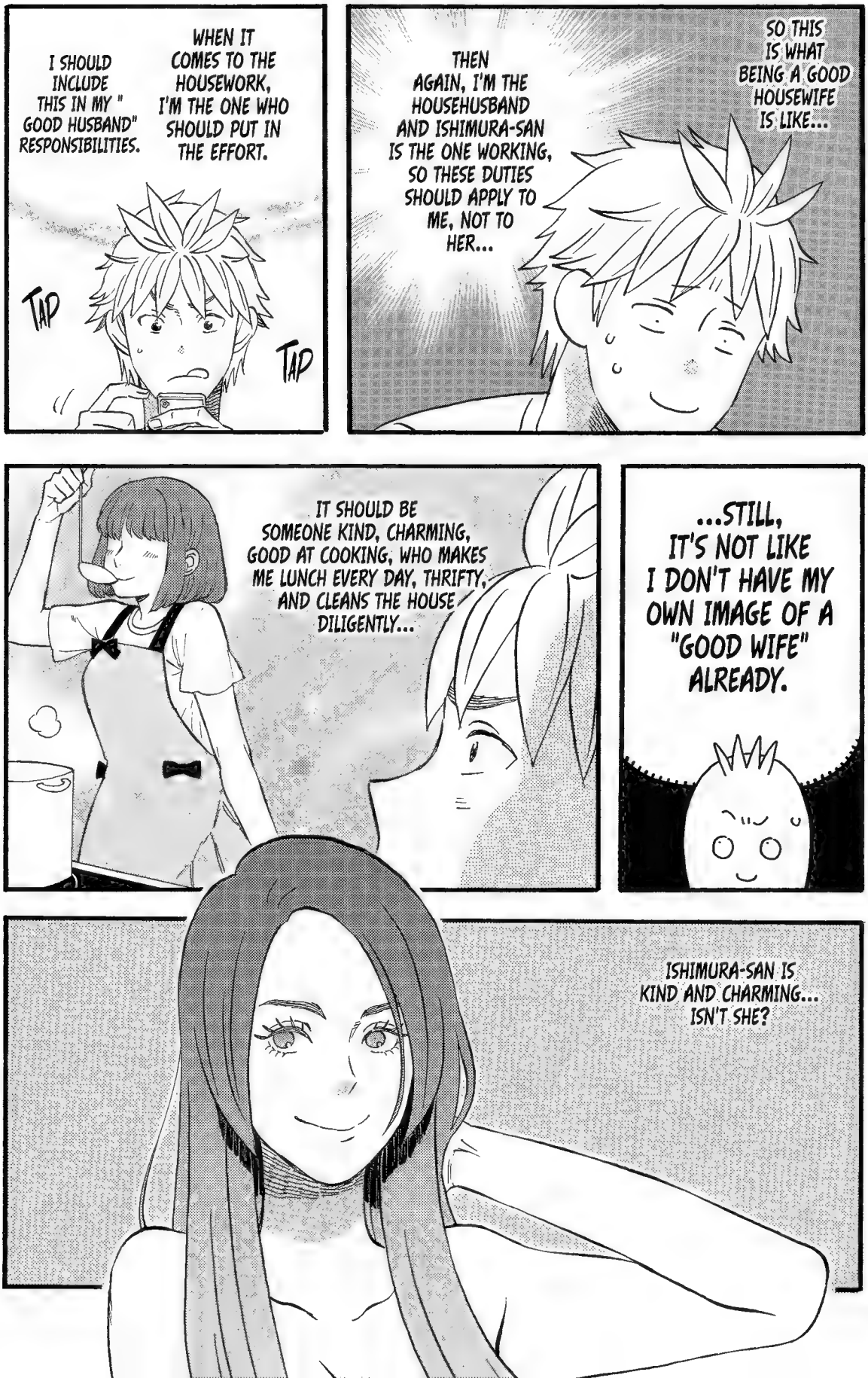

H-HE'S KIND AND HAS A CUTE SMILE...!"
"HE'S CLUMSY AND NOT VERY COMPETENT AT HIS JOB, BUT...
...She said, when I asked her about her husband's good points...

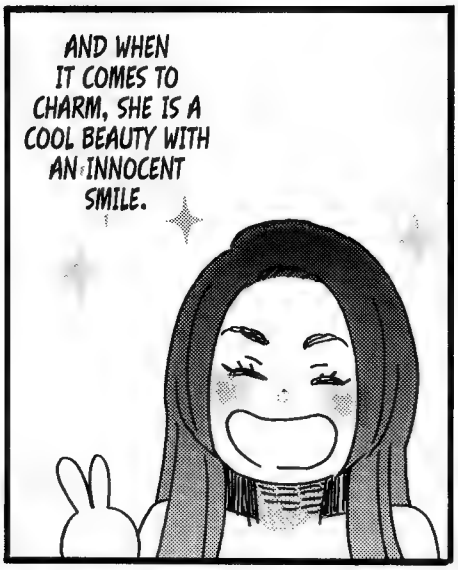

I WANT HIM TO ALWAYS BE HEALTHY, SO I HAVE HIM EAT LOTS OF VEGETABLES. BEING IN GOOD SHAPE ALSO MAKES WORK EASIER FOR HIM.
FOR ME... IT'S COOKING, PERHAPS?
I TRY TO COME UP WITH ALL SORTS OF SIDE DISHES.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU STRIVE TO DO YOUR BEST AT EVERY DAY?
UMM... OKAY, SO WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE? WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD WIFE?

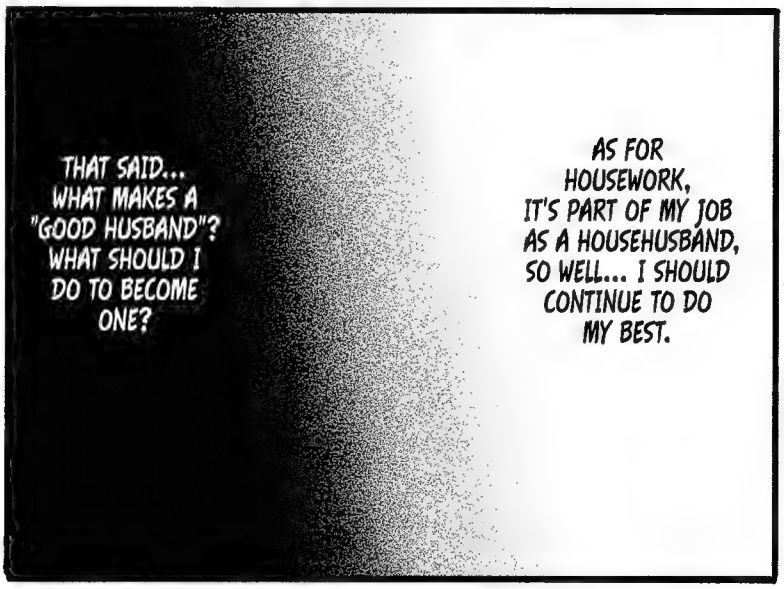
I SEE...
I DO MY BEST SO THAT THE HOUSE STAYS CLEAN AND THE LAUNDRY DOESN'T PILE UP.


BUT THEN HE GETS UPSET BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME DISHES...!
MY HUSBAND DOESN'T COME HOME VERY OFTEN, SO WHENEVER HE DOES, I MAKE HIS FAVORITE MEALS...
HE MAY COMPLAIN, BUT I'M SURE HE SENSES YOUR LOVE FOR HIM...


I SHOULD INCLUDE THIS IN MY " GOOD HUSBAND" RESPONSIBILITIES.
WHEN IT COMES TO THE HOUSEWORK, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD PUT IN THE EFFORT.
TAP
TAP
THEN AGAIN, I'M THE HOUSEHUSBAND AND ISHIMURA-SAN IS THE ONE WORKING, SO THESE DUTIES SHOULD APPLY TO ME, NOT TO HER...
SO THIS IS WHAT BEING A GOOD HOUSEWIFE IS LIKE...
IT SHOULD BE SOMEONE KIND, CHARMING, GOOD AT COOKING, WHO MAKES ME LUNCH EVERY DAY, THRIFTY, AND CLEANS THE HOUSE DILIGENTLY...
...STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE MY OWN IMAGE OF A "GOOD WIFE" ALREADY.
ISHIMURA-SAN IS KIND AND CHARMING... ISN'T SHE?


AND WHEN IT COMES TO CHARM, SHE IS A COOL BEAUTY WITH AN INNOCENT SMILE.

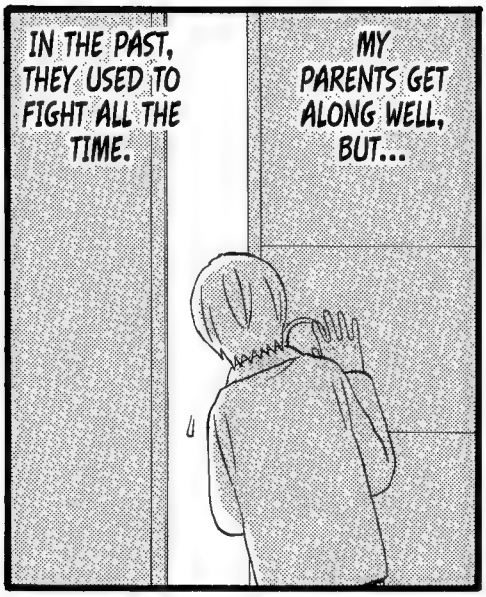
Hmm...
I DON'T THINK SHE CARES MUCH ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT INDIFFERENCE OF HERS IS NECESSARILY INNATE, OR A CHARACTER FLAW.
Tmp
Tmp


THAT SAID... WHAT MAKES A "GOOD HUSBAND"? WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BECOME ONE?
AS FOR HOUSEWORK, IT'S PART OF MY JOB AS A HOUSEHUSBAND, SO WELL... I SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST.

...IN TERMS OF LOOKS, I ALSO HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.
I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT LURED ME INTO SIGNING THOSE MARRIAGE PAPERS ON THE SPOT.
Heh heh...

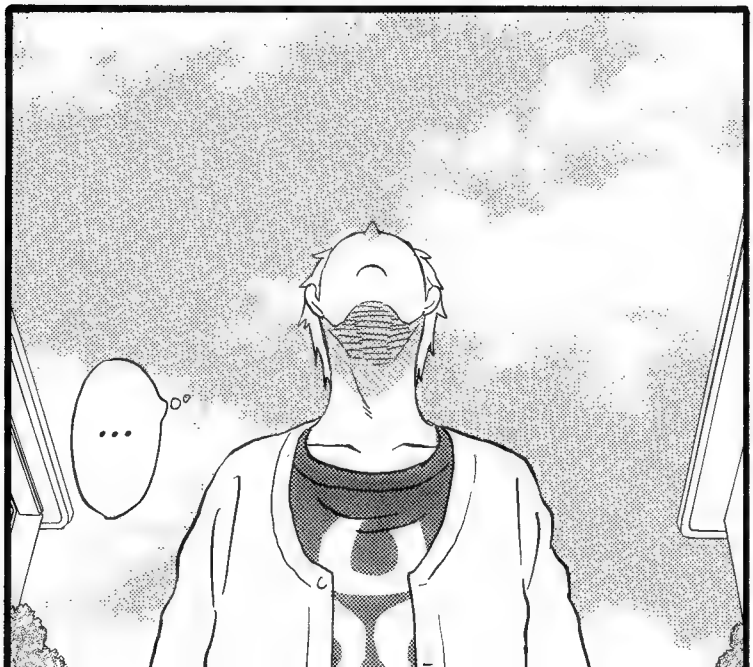
...
...

HOW DO MARRIED COUPLES AROUND THE WORLD LIVE THEIR LIVES?


IN THE PAST, THEY USED TO FIGHT ALL THE TIME.
MY PARENTS GET ALONG WELL, BUT...

I DON'T THINK A COUPLE WILL STAY TOGETHER FOR LONG IF ALL THEY DO IS LET TIME PASS THEM BY...

IN A MARRIAGE, THERE MUST BE A LOT OF THINGS YOU DISAGREE ON.
IT'S NORMAL, ISN'T IT? AT FIRST, WE ARE ESSENTIALLY STRANGERS.


...

DO WE HAVE TO MEET HALFWAY? DO WE MAKE COMPROMISES...?

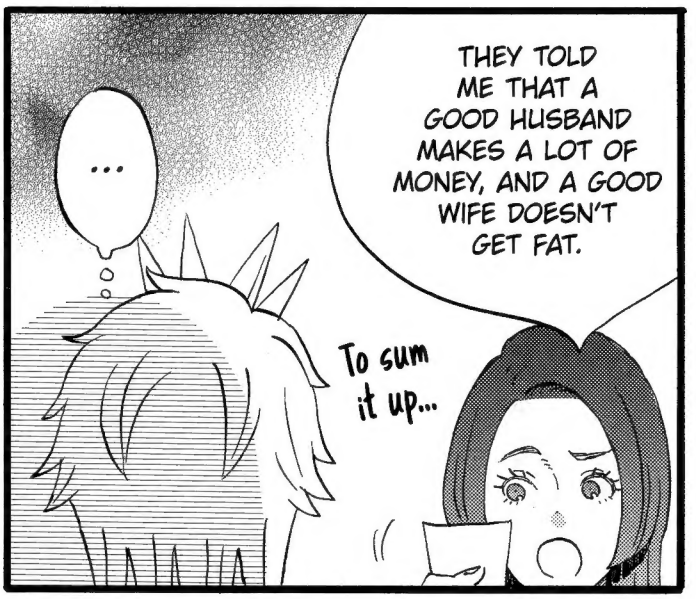
A HUSBAND IS LIKE THIS, AND A WIFE IS LIKE THAT. WE'RE DIFFERENT.
I FEEL LIKE...

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE ABLE TO RESPECT THE PERSON YOU LIVE WITH...
REGARDLESS OF OUR ROLES AS HUSBAND AND WIFE...
AND SO...

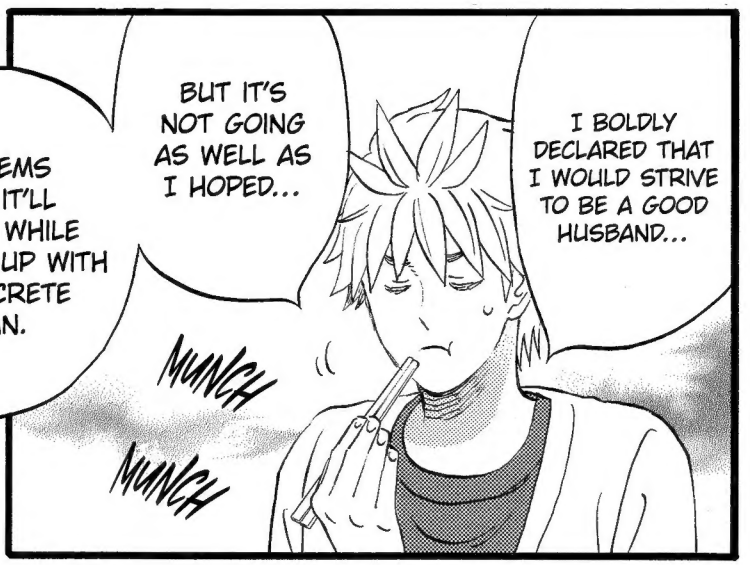
SO I TRIED TO ASK THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...
I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ONE BY MYSELF...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ISHIMURA-SAN?
I WASN'T ABLE TO COME UP WITH A CONCRETE PLAN.
...

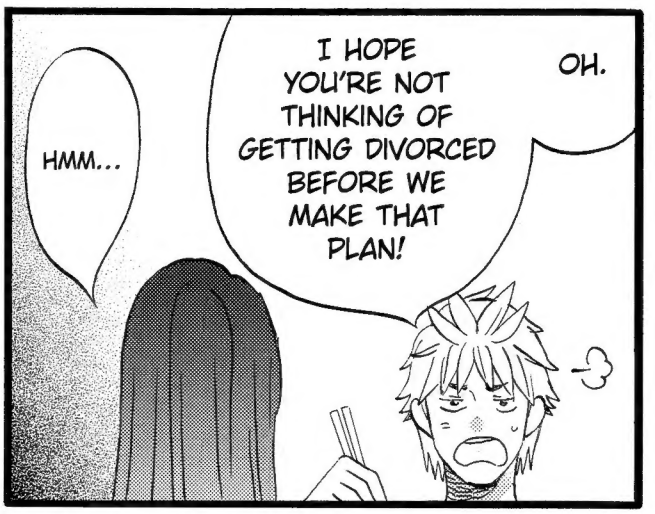
I STILL DON'T REALLY GET IT.
I'VE ASKED MANY PEOPLE, BUT...
YEAH ...
FLAP
FLAP

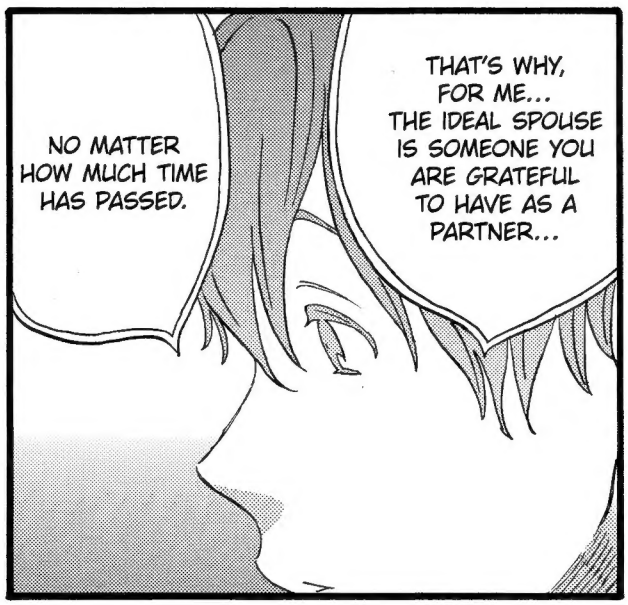

...
THEY TOLD ME THAT A GOOD HUSBAND MAKES A LOT OF MONEY, AND A GOOD WIFE DOESN'T GET FAT.
To sum it up...

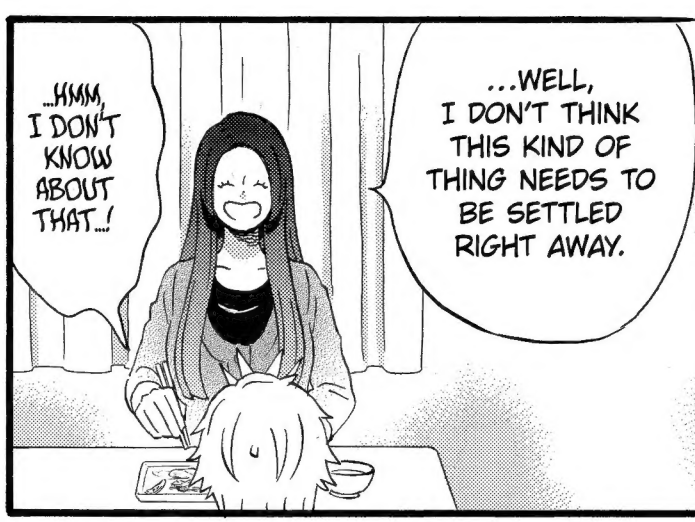
...
IT SEEMS THAT IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO COME UP WITH A CONCRETE PLAN.


BUT IT'S NOT GOING AS WELL AS I HOPED...
I BOLDLY DECLARED THAT I WOULD STRIVE TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND...
MUNCH
MUNCH

"THE IMAGE OF AN IDEAL COUPLE DOES EXIST."
I...

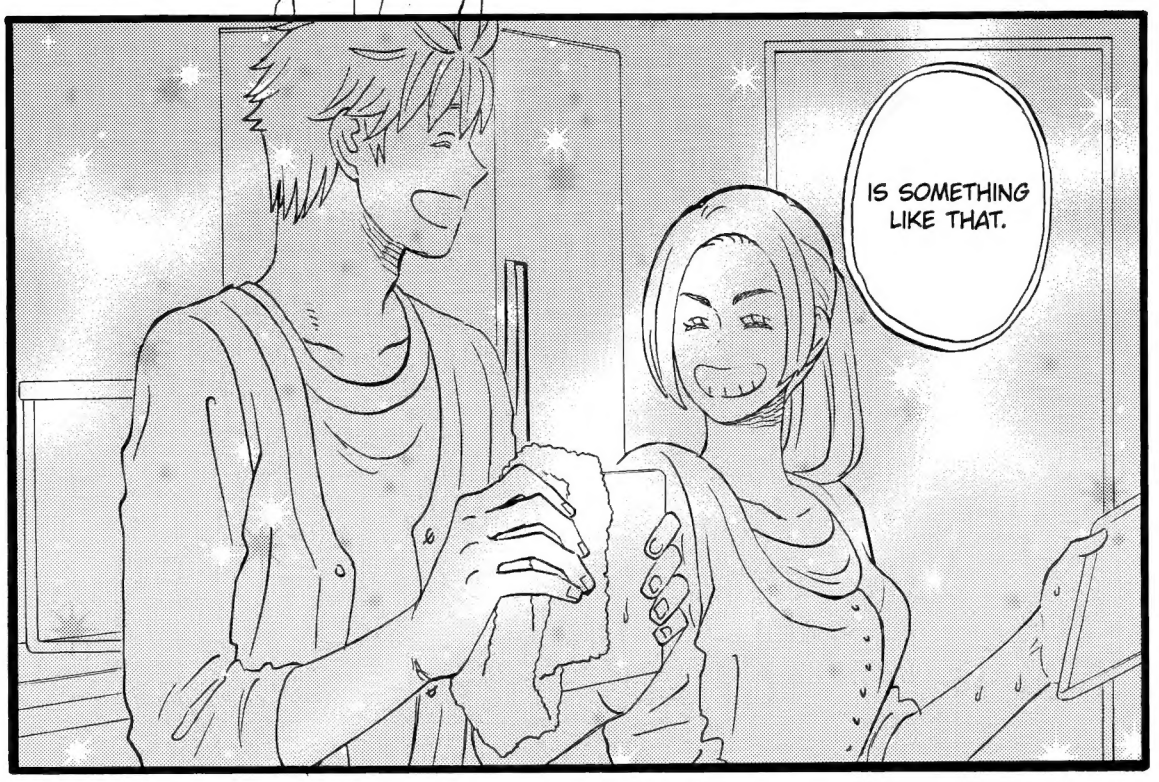

HMM...
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GETTING DIVORCED BEFORE WE MAKE THAT PLAN!
OH.





A BIT SIMILAR TO KIRISHIMA-KUN AND I, ISN'T IT?

...
THE IDEAL MARRIED COUPLE...
HA HA HA!
I BET YOU'LL SMASH THE DIVORCE BUTTON RIGHT AWAY...
Geez...!
THE MOMENT YOU START THINKING IT'S ANNOYING...


IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

OHH... YEAH, I KNOW.
BY THE WAY, SAIGA-SENSEI ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE HATES YOU.

WOW... YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T GET ALONG.
WHEN YOU GET HOME, PLEASE TELL YOUR HUSBAND THAT I HATE HIM.